

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00918 041106Z

10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO : 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, AU

SUBJECT: CURRENT AUSTRIAN VIEWS ON IEA AND CONSUMER/
PRODUCER DIALOGUE

REFS: A. VIENNA 0847 B. OECD PARIS 01419

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00918 041106Z

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES CURRENT AUSTRIAN VIEWS
ON CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE:

1. WHAT EMERGES CLEARLY AT THIS POINT IS THAT MOST IMMEDIATE GOA CONCERN IS MATTER OF HOW THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED AT INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. STATE SECRETARY VESELSKY, ECONOMIC COORDINATOR IN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY (AND A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF KREISKY), IN LENGTHLY CONVERSATION WITH ECONCOUNS REEMPHASIZED GOA POSITION THAT HAD ALREADY EMERGED AT MID-JANUARY STANDING GROUP MEETING (PARA 6 REF B), I.E., THAT AUSTRIA WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT BE REPRESENTED BY EC NOR WOULD GOA ACCEPT A SCENARIO THAT WOULD EXCLUDE THEM ALTOGETHER FROM FIRST MEETING. BOTH VESELSKY AND, IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR SCHOBER (MFA) EMPHASIZED THAT HIS SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS INDICATING GOA DESIRE FOR DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIAL MEETINGS BUT RATHER THEIR VIEW THAT A NON-EC COUNTRY COULD REPRESENT AUSTRIA.

SCHOBER SAID HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT THREE IEA NEUTRALS (SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, AND AUSTRIA) MIGHT WELL BE REPRESENTED BY ONE OF THE THREE. HE FELT THAT IW WOULD BE IMPORTANT BOTH FROM VIEWPOINT OF CONSUMER AND IEA SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS FROM VIEWPOINT OF CREATING ATMOSPHERE OF NON-CONFRONTATION, THAT NEUTRAL IEA MEMBERS BE REPRESENTED IN PREPARATORY DIALOGUE. DR. HLADIK IN ENERGY SECTION OF TRADE MINISTRY AND ONE OF GOA DELEGATES TO IEA, HAS REFLECTED SAME VIEWS IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS.

2. AS FOR LOCATION, VESELSKY TOLD US THERE HAD BEEN SOME FEELERS FROM USG TO GOA SEEKING AUSTRIAN REACTION TO HAVING FIRST MEETING TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOA AT A LATER STAGE MIGHT WELCOME CONSUMER/PRODUCER MEETINGS IN VIENNA, THEY WOULD PREFER INITIAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD ELSEWHERE. VESELSKY OPINED THAT BECAUSE OF OECD LOCATION, PARIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IDEAL FOR FIRST MEETINGS.

3. BOTH VESELSKY AND SCHOBER CONSIDER USG EMPHASIS ON CONSUMER SOLIDARITY TO BE SENSIBLE. (EMBASSY ON SEVERAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENNA 00918 041106Z

OCCASIONS HAS STRESSED CONDITIONALITY ASPECT.) THEY HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT PROGRESS ON CONSERVATION MAY NOT MOVE RAPIDLY ENOUGH FROM US VIEWPOINT AND THUS CAUSE DELAY IN GETTING DIALOGUE STARTED. (GOA ITSELF FACES DELICATE POLITICAL PROBLEM IN OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF IEA MEMBERSHIP AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION DURING SPRING.) AT SAME TIME VESELSKY WAS IN

AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION.

4. REGARDING AGENDA, GOA BELIEVES SECURITY OF SUPPLY SHOULD BE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS AND THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD PRESS FOR CLEAR STATEMENT BY PRODUCERS THAT THEY WILL "NOT MIX OIL WITH POLITICS" AND PROVIDE ASSURANCES RE SECURITY OF SUPPLIES. PRICE IS SECONDARY IN IMPORTANCE TO THE AUSTRAISN. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE PRICES CAN BE BROUGHT DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY, ALTHOUGH FOR OPTICAL PRUPOSES THEY THINK A VERY SMALL, NOMINAL DECLINE MIGHT BE OBTAINABLE. THRUST OF AUSTRIAN POSITION IS TO HEAD OFF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN OIL PRICES, GOA CONCERNED THAT U.S. MAY PRESS FOR A MINIMUM PRICE IN IEA. THEY WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THIS, PARTICULARLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR (PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1975).

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT FOR BOTH INTERNAL POLITICAL AND FOREIGN POLICY REASONS, AUSTRIANS ARE NOT AT ALL EAGER TO HAVE INITIAL CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUES OR PREPCON TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA. THIS ALSO REFLECTS CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S DESIRE NOT BE OUT IN FRONT IN POLICIES WHICH MAY APPEAR OFFENSIVE TO ANY GROUPING AND TO "WAIT AND SEE" WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INITIAL PHASES OF THE DIALOGUE.

6. AUSTRIANS APPEAR FLEXIBLE AS TO WHO WOULD REPRESENT THEM AND OTHER SMALLER STATES AT PREPCON. GIVEN THIS FLEXIBILITY IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT A FORMULA FOR REPRESENTATION WHICH GOA COULD ACCEPT. (END COMMENT). HUMES

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